

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER



RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

RARS Hamfest VE Test Session

Column by Joe (WA4GIR) and Liz (KO4CK) White

The '10 RARSFest VE test session was, as usual, a very busy one. We processed 42 individuals. Of those, only four failed to reach the level they tested for. We administered a total of 57 exam elements. After the session, we had eight new Extras, 13 new Generals, and 15 new Technicians. One youth (10) was very excited when he passed the Technician exam. The exams were given at the NC State Vet School instead of the Fairgrounds. That location worked well for the team and we heard no complaints from the applicants.

We started the session at 9:00 and finished up shortly before 11:00. A few of us stayed later as one applicant had arranged to have the test read aloud. Many thanks to our dedicated team for doing their usual outstanding job and getting everyone processed in a timely manner. The team included Karl Bowman (W4CHX), Fred Breidt (AG4WE), Charlie Brown (W4VFJ), Rod Gilvey (AB4RG), Dennis Mason (AJ4HK), Julie Royster (KI4OTM), Larry Royster (KI4FYR), and Marty Young (W4MY).

We will be next be giving exams at the May 4th club meeting, then at the Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest on July 17.

Next RARS Meeting: May 4

7:30 PM: "Receiver Design" by
Alan Victor W4AMV.

The meeting will be held in the sanctuary.

RARS OFFICERS:

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church
4400 Buffaloe Road
Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.130 (82.5 PL), 146.640, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$15 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

May Birthdays

Ron	KJ4DNS	5/4
Larry	W4WIV	5/5
Larry	KG4FIQ	5/5
Liz	KO4CK	5/5
Franco	KE4IBB	5/8
Wayne	K6TWX	5/8
Hank	K4HM	5/8
Brian	KA9QJT	5/10
Nancy	KB1HIX	5/10
Bob	NC1X	5/11
Chuck	AE4CD	5/12
Ed	WA4PEN	5/13
Bob	KI4ZNM	5/15
Chris	KE4TMO	5/17
Cam	KU4VY	5/17
Larry	K1ZW	5/20
Clarence	KI4WTT	5/26
Lynn	KG4LTM	5/27
Courtney	KI4HOS	5/27

March 2010

RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 520

Traffic: 38/22

Minutes: 690

Sessions: 31

Special Interest Nets:

Checkins: 120

Minutes: 650

Sessions: 13

Upcoming Hamfests

5/1 Upstate Hamfest - SC Section Convention
Spartanburg, SC
<http://www.brars.org/>

5/8 Rockingham Hamfest & Computer Show
Reidsville, NC
<http://www.rcarc.com/>

5/8 Heart of Georgia Hamfest
Byron, GA
<http://www.heartofgeorgiahampfest.com/>

5/14- Dayton Hamvention (ARRL Natl Conv.)

5/16 Trotwood, OH
<http://www.hamvention.org/>

5/29 DurHamFest
Bahama, NC
<http://www.dfma.org/>

5/30 Memorial Day Hamfest
West Friendship, MD
<http://marylandfm.org/Hamfest.htm>

New RARS Members

Franco Venturi	KE4IBB
Chuck deCourt	W3WZN
Warren Melhado	WM2Z
Rich Mitchell	KJ4TTR
Jerry Piche	WA1WHD
Philip Snyder	KJ4UCZ

2010 RARSFest Prize Winners

Hourly Drawing

10:00 Pre-registration	\$100.00		Geary Morton
11:00 AM	\$100.00	N4AJF	Lee Swanson
12:00 PM	\$100.00	N2QAQ	Herbert Krulin
1:00 PM	\$100.00	K4TQH	David Keith
2:00 PM	\$100.00	KC4GL	Glenn Lassiter
3:00 Grand Prize	\$400.00		Charles Stamey

QLF

1st Prize	\$30.00	N2UO	Marc Franco
2nd Prize	\$20.00	WA9SZL	Johnnie Mayfield
3rd Prize	\$10.00	W4AWM	John Bauer

QBH

1st Prize	\$30.00	N2UO	Marc Franco
2nd Prize	\$20.00	W9EQ	Dan Habecker
3rd Prize	\$10.00	W4AWM	John Bauer

Homebrew

1st Prize	\$30.00	K4CKB	Chris Busch
2nd Prize	\$20.00	KE4JVV	Rob Zeher
3rd Prize	\$10.00	N2UO	Marc Franco

Fox Hunt	\$30.00	KI4TRG	Sam Jenkins
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March 17, 2010 RARS Board Meeting Minutes

Present: John AI4RT, Gary KN4AQ, Ken KI4OTO, Don WA4AVU, Selene KG4RMT, Hank K4HM, Chuck K4HF, MaryJo K4MJL, Karl W4CHX, Justin AJ4MJ, Virginia NC4VA, Greg KE4PAX, and Charlie WB4DCM.

1. Call to Order: Karl W4CHX called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There were 13 Board members present (listed above) establishing a quorum.
2. Approval of minutes: The minutes of the February 16, 2010 meeting were approved as published.
3. VP Justin AJ4MJ report: The April and May programs will be switched. The programs for the remainder of the year are per his email. We expended \$94 for our RARS birthday and received donations of \$39.
4. Secretary's Report: Apologized to the Board for having had the flu at the last meeting and thanked President Karl for doing the minutes. President Karl commented that the approved minutes for the February Board meeting may now be provided to the EXCITER. The minutes of the general meeting are published in the EXCITER and then voted upon at the general meeting by the membership.
5. Committee Reports:
 - a) Public Service Director: John AI4RT advised that we have several public service events posted on our web page. The next events are March 16 and April 3. There is one for the same day as the RARSFest, April 3 and that is being handled by Rick Yost N4DQC.
 - b) Public Information Officer: Gary KN4AQ no report.
 - c) Education Director: Virginia NC4VA stated that the Technician Class has begun with 30 students. The next class will be Saturday, March 27 with the exam to follow at the end of class.
 - d) Field Day Chair: Mike WA4BPJ no report.
 - e) FM Repeater Chair: Gary KN4AQ no report.
 - f) Hospitality Chair: Mary Jo K4MJL advised that her table was in the same approximate position as in the past, but that many people did not sign in. She was concerned that we do not get an accurate count of attendees. Perhaps a location closer to the door would work better.
 - g) VP Justin was unsure about the cancellation of the SWL net. He was advised that the net has been cancelled.
 - h) ARRL Liaison: Chuck K4HF stated that we are being asked to contact our Senators and Representatives in Congress to support a bill to require Homeland Security to do a study on the value of amateur radio in emergencies. President Karl commented that the FCC is releasing its broadband plan.
 - i) W4DW Trustee: Jeff AC4ZO no report.

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j) RARSFest Chair: John AI4RT thanked those who have been spreading the word about RARSFest at other hamfest and club meetings. Sales are going well. Hank K4HM advised that in 2009, we rented 223 tables. The 2010 layout will have 216 tables of which about 200 are rented. We can add about 54 more tables in overflow. The Fair Grounds will apparently allow us to place tables outside of the building. There followed some discussion about advertising our forums and schedule and the way to accomplish that. The food vendor will provide breakfast at 7:00 AM and the noon meal will be provided in the Graham Building. The workers party will be Saturday, May 8 at Lake Crabtree. President Karl stated that he would present an award to Tim Slay on Friday night at our supper.

6. Treasurer's Report: Greg KE4PAX reported that we now have 245 members. He has closed our Morgan-Stanley account and moved the funds to Wachovia. He is looking for other banks to place our account. We have purchased additional licensing manuals and have made a donation to AMSAT.

7. Old Business:

- The contents of the file cabinet have been cleaned out. Although several older members have indicated that they have "items" to pass to us.
- RARS Repeater Technical Group is not complete.

8. New Business:

- The RARS Haiti Relief effort has been concluded.
- A Face Book Page for RARS has been suggested by a member. After much discussion about the pros and cons of RARS having a Face Book Page, a motion was made, seconded and approved for VP Justin to establish such a page.
- A community TV producer from Northern Virginia, Mr. Dey, has contacted RARS to work on some project. VP Justin advised Mr. Dey that the club leaves emergency communications to ARES. After the President and Vice President were unable to determine exactly what the Mr. Dey wanted, it was decided not to pursue it further.

9. Board Comments:

- Hank K4HM advised that Bob Breyer, K1RCB has UHF/VHF equipment for sale.
- Treasurer Greg advised that some equipment was donated to RARS and that Chuck K4HF will sell it with one half of the proceeds going to RARS..

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM

April 6, 2010 RARS Board Meeting Minutes

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 6 at the First Alliance Church, Raleigh. There were 47 members and guests present.

The meeting was called to order by President Karl W4CHX at 7:33PM. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were in the EXCITER and there were no additions or corrections to the minutes. A motion and second to approve the minutes was made and approved.

VP Justin AJ4MJ advised that RARS is now on FACEBOOK as the "Raleigh Amateur Radio Society".

Announcements:

- The following visitors were recognized: Ralph Elia KJ4TTJ, Chuck deCourt W3WZN, Chris Sagris KB4BBA, Donald Little KJ4TTP, and Tom Lewis N4TL. Richard Mitchell KJ4TTR, a new RARS member who has passed his Technician on 3-27-10 and General class exam on 4-3-10 was also recognized.
- RARS dinner will be held on Tuesday, April 13 at the Golden Corral. All are invited.
- The RARS Board will meet on Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 PM at the Triangle Radio Reading Service. All RARS members are invited to attend.
- There will be an after meeting gathering at Applebee's.
- Upcoming hamfests include: Azalea Coast Hamfest at the USS North Carolina in Wilmington on April 10; Catawba Valley Hamfest, Morganton April 17; DurHamFest, Durham on May 29; Winston Salem Classic Hamfest June 12; and Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH on May 14, 15, and 16.
- John AI4RT RARSFest Chair thanked everyone for their help with the RARSFest. He reminded everyone of the workers party on May 8 at Lake Crabtree. He commented that the dealers at the show seemed happy with our hamfest.
- John AI4RT Public Service Chair stated that we provide communications for charity events which are worthy of our time and are fun. He encouraged everyone to participate. Go to the RARS website for the schedule of events. The two closest are the Walk MS at the RBC Center on April 24 and Relay for Life at the Cary High School on May 1.
- Virginia NC4VA Education Coordinator announced that the Tech Class has just been completed on March 21. There were 30 attendees of which 24 that took the exam passed. She then read the names and call signs of the new licensees. Virginia

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had some Technician Class manuals available for sale. She then pushed operating awards, and in particular, the “Worked all O Award”. Next was a quick comment about the Storm Fest this coming weekend.

- Gary KN4AQ FM Chair brought us up to date on the repeaters. Our 440.525 has shifted into 443.625 while 147.195 has shifted to 145.21. 224.16 is now on the air.

Mike KB7NLA won first place in the drawings followed by W4TTX and WA1WHD. VP Justin AJ4MJ then introduced our program for the evening. Al Sadowski AH6LS received his Novice ticket at RARS 38 years ago. He is a graduate of NC State, serviced in the military, and knows a great deal about digital and satellites. Al then went into a detail presentation about digital and satellites that lead into operations of GPS. Another great RARS program.

At the conclusion of the presentation, President Karl W4CHX announced that former RARS president, Jack Ritter W0UCE, was a part of the YI9PSE DXpedition (Iraq on the air). For further information see the weblink on the RARS website.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM by President Karl W4CHX.

Local Amateur Radio Nets

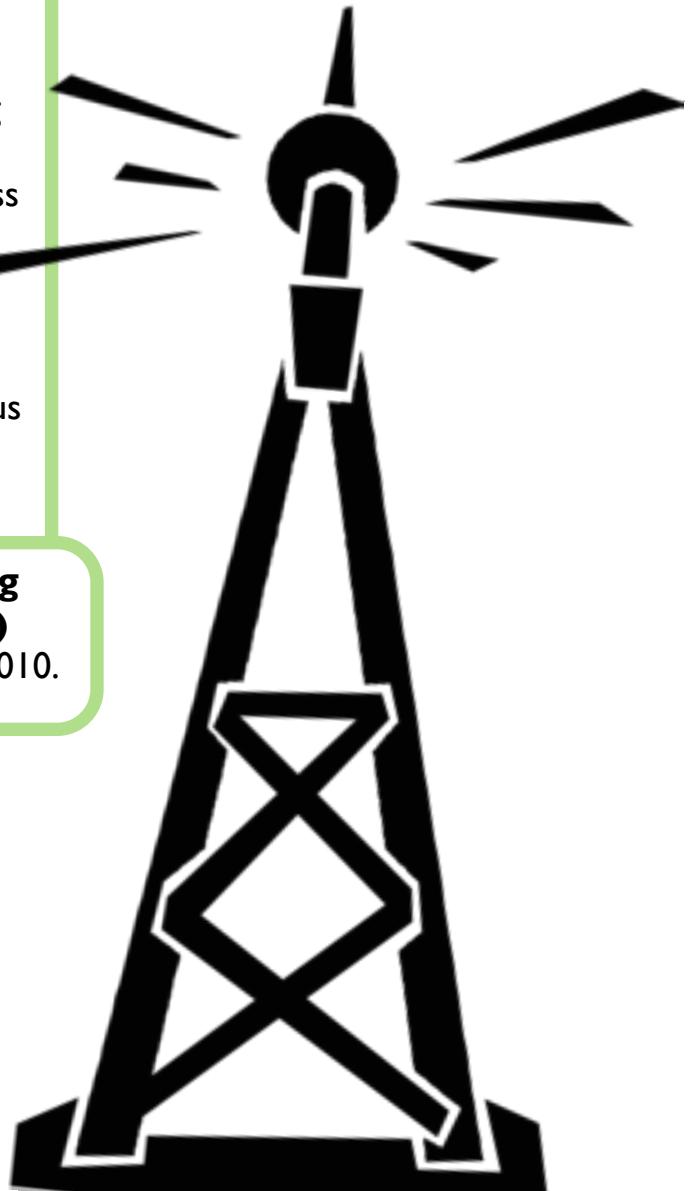
The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 after the 8 PM RARS net.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

FYI: The **Tarheel Shortwave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) Net** has been discontinued as of January 2010.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**.

You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

May 4: "A Look at Recent Tornadoes in Davidson, Guilford and Person Counties" with NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

May 25: "NOAA Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook" with Darin Figurskey KC2IPY, Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Raleigh NWS.

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.880 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

**Looking for the latest in
public service opportunities?
Visit www.rars.org to find
out about upcoming events
and sign up.**

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EXCITER

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